



## **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OFFICIALS FINED FOR PDC VIOLATIONS**

**Olympia** – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Christine Yorozu, levied fines ranging from \$50 to \$500 against governmental officials who failed to file statements of personal financial affairs. Some 5,500 officials are subject to this annual reporting requirement.

“I am continually amazed at the number of elected and appointed officials who ignore the law and fail to file the required financial reports,” Yorozu said.

Elected officials and certain state appointed officials are required under state statute to file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15<sup>th</sup> reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

“Filing reports that disclose financial interests and holdings is more than a formality,” Yorozu said. “It’s a means for the public to have tangible proof that officials are acting in the public interest and not for their private gain.”

The governmental officials who were issued a civil penalty had previously been sent two warning letters asking them to comply with the reporting requirements. A postcard reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent on May 17, 2001 and an opportunity to pay a \$50 fine and forego an enforcement hearing was sent on June 15, 2001.

On July 30, brief enforcement hearings conducted by PDC Chair Yorozu were held. Officials found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.

Officials from Central Washington who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing were:

- Ronald Freeze, School Director, Naches Valley School District, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - personal financial report is currently on file.
- Ann Washut, School Director, Selah School District, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - personal financial report is currently on file.
- Ryan Peterson, School Director, Finley School District, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - personal financial report is currently on file.
- Randy Sperle, School Director, Union Gap School District, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - personal financial report is currently on file.
- Dan Roseburg, Fire Commissioner, Grant Fire Protection District, assessed a civil penalty of \$500 - current personal financial report has not been filed.
- Gary Clark, City Council Member, City of Zillah, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - current personal financial report has not been filed.
- Gary Fox, City Council Member, City of Zillah, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - personal financial report is currently on file.
- Stella Morrison, School Director, Wapato School District #207, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - current personal financial report has not been filed.
- Charles Styger, School Director, Napavine School District #014, assessed a civil penalty of \$250 - current personal financial report has not been filed.

- Connie Opheikens, School Director, Moses Lake School District #161, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - current personal financial report has not been filed.
- Terry Cress, City Council Member, City of West Richland, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 – personal financial report is currently on file.
- Richard Dixon, City Council Member, City of Goldendale, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 – personal financial report is currently on file.
- David Clemens, Commissioner, Port of Peninsula, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - personal financial report is currently on file.
- Delbert Lathim, Commissioner, Port of Pasco, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 - personal financial report is currently on file.
- Gwendolyn Grundei, City Council Member, City of Goldendale, assessed a civil penalty of \$250 – current personal financial report has not been filed.
- Linda Lamb, School Director, Finlely School District #053, assessed a civil penalty of \$100 – personal financial report is currently on file.